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2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW TORK
4	CORY EPPS,
5	Plaintiff,
6	Case No.: -against- 1:19-CV-00281-LJV
7	THE CITY OF BUFFALO, DETECTIVE JOHN BOHAN, DETECTIVE REGINALD
8	MINOR, DETECTIVE REGINALD MINOR, DETECTIVE MARK STAMBACH, DETECTIVE JAMES GIARDINA,
9	DETECTIVE ANTHONY CONSTANTINO, DETECTIVE ROBERT CHELLA,
10	RANIERO MASSECHIA, CHARLES ARONICA, and CHIEF JOSEPH RIGA,
11	Defendants.
12	X
13	May 5, 2021 12:14 p.m.
14	12.14 β.11.
15	
16	Videoconference deposition of JOSEPH
17	RIGA, taken by Plaintiff, pursuant to
18	agreement and to the Federal Rules of Civil
19	Procedure, reported remotely by Nicole
20	Veltri, RPR, CRR, and Notary Public of the
21	State of New York.
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24	
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2	APPEARANCES:	
3		
4	RICKNER PLLC	
5	Attorneys for Plaintiff	
6	14 Wall Street, Suite 1603	
7	New York, New York 10005	
8	BY: ROB RICKNER, ESQ.	
9		
10	CITY OF BUFFALO LAW DEPARTMENT	
11	CORPORATION COUNSEL'S OFFICE	
12	Attorneys for Defendants	
13	65 Niagara Square, Room 1112	
14	Buffalo, New York 14202-3313	
15	BY: MAEVE HUGGINS, ESQ.	
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2	STIPULATIONS
3	
4	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by
5	and between counsel for the respective
6	parties hereto, that all objections, except
7	as to form, are reserved to the time of
8	trial.
9	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
10	that the deposition may be signed and sworn
11	to before any officer authorized to
12	administer an oath.
13	IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
14	that the sealing and filing of the
15	deposition be waived.
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1	Riga 4
2	JOSEPH RIGA,
3	called as a witness, having been first
4	duly sworn by a Notary Public of the
5	State of New York, was examined and
6	testified as follows:
7	EXAMINATION
8	BY MR. RICKNER:
9	Q. Please state your name for the
10	record.
11	A. Chief Joseph Riga.
12	MR. RICKNER: I assume counsel
13	will accept any subpoenas in the event
14	that that would be necessary to secure
15	an appearance at trial in which case I
16	will not need his home address.
17	MS. HUGGINS: Let me just take a
18	moment to explain what that means to
19	him, okay?
20	(Whereupon, an off-the-record
21	discussion was held.)
22	MS. HUGGINS: I agree to accept
23	service on his behalf.
24	MR. RICKNER: Great.
25	Q. Hi. My name is Rob Rickner. I

5 1 Riga 2 represent a man named Cory Epps in this 3 lawsuit, and I would like to ask you a 4 couple of questions today? 5 Now, right off the bat I've got a 6 couple of initial ground rules; and these 7 are just designed to make sure that we get 8 a nice, clear, transcript. So the first 9 one is, you may know where I'm going and I 10 make these long rambling questions and 11 you're sure you know what the answer is, 12 but please do me a favor and don't jump in 13 and give me the answer and still wait until 14 I'm done the end of my stupid question 15 before jumping in and answering. 16 Can you do that for me? 17 Yes, sir. Α. 18 Now, you're testifying over a Zoom link in a conference room; but it's 19 20 the same rules as though you're testifying 2.1 at trial, meaning that you have to tell the 22 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the 23 truth? 2.4 Can you do that for me? 25 Α. Yes.

6 1 Riga 2 You're already doing a great job Q. 3 of this, but please make sure to make your 4 answers verbal. If you nod your head or if 5 you say something like uh-huh, it may not 6 be clear on the record what you meant; and 7 so that's not going to work for the court 8 reporter. So can you please give me verbal 9 answers in this deposition? 10 Yes, I will. Α. 11 Do you have any medical condition Ο. 12 that would prevent you from giving full and 13 accurate testimony today? 14 Α. No. 15 Q. Did you prepare for your 16 deposition today? 17 I reviewed several exhibits this Α. 18 morning. 19 Q. Okay. 20 Did any of those exhibits refresh 2.1 your recollection as to the underlying 22 events of this lawsuit? 23 I would say minimally. Α. 2.4 Okay. Q. 25 Do you know which exhibits in

1	Riga 7
2	particular sparked a memory?
3	A. I'm sorry. I couldn't hear what
4	you said.
5	Q. Could you tell me which exhibits
6	specifically sparked a memory?
7	A. Well, in general, there were some
8	exhibits that brought back some
9	recollection of what transpired when this
10	first came up.
11	Q. But was there any one or
12	collection of exhibits that really gave you
13	the most impact?
14	A. I don't think I can pick one out
15	in particular. I can just say in general I
16	think it caused me to remember some facts.
17	Q. Now, would it be fair to say
18	MS. HUGGINS: Is it possible
19	just in fairness, he's reviewed I would
20	say half of the number of exhibits
21	here. They are all here and available.
22	MR. RICKNER: Okay.
23	MS. HUGGINS: We have not made it
24	through all of them.
25	MR. RICKNER: Well, I'll accept

1	Riga 8
2	your representation that what he
3	reviewed are a portion of the exhibits
4	that have been marked 1 through 95 so
5	far in this deposition.
6	MS. HUGGINS: Correct. Only the
7	numbered exhibits so far that we've
8	used in deposition testimony.
9	MR. RICKNER: All right. Thank
10	you very much.
11	Q. Chief well, let me get this
12	out of the way, what was the highest rank
13	that you held when you left, I guess, it's
14	the district attorney's office?
15	A. I was the chief investigator in
16	the DA's office.
17	Q. I'm going to call you Chief Riga
18	then in this deposition if you don't mind.
19	A. That's fine.
20	Q. Chief Riga, is it fair to say
21	that you've testified in court before?
22	A. Yes, I have.
23	Q. Would it be correct to say that
24	you've testified in court hundreds of
25	times?

1	Riga	9
2	A. Hundreds might be a little more	
3	than I did. I don't know if I'd go that	
4	high.	
5	Q. Quite a few?	
6	A. Yes.	
7	Q. Did you ever testify at a grand	
8	jury?	
9	A. Yes.	
10	Q. Have you ever been at trial and	
11	been cross-examined using your previous	
12	grand jury testimony?	
13	A. Yes, I have.	
14	Q. So would it be correct to say	
15	that you understand that you have to be	
16	careful in choosing your words when you	
17	testify under oath in front of a court	
18	reporter like you are today?	
19	A. Yes.	
20	Q. Now, what year did you finish	
21	high school?	
22	A. 1968.	
23	Q. And what year did you hold your	
24	first position of any kind in law	
25	enforcement?	

1	Riga 10
2	A. 1968.
3	Q. What was your first job in law
4	enforcement?
5	A. I was a police cadet in the City
6	of Buffalo.
7	Q. Would it be fair to say that you
8	did your entire career in the City of
9	Buffalo?
10	A. No, it would not.
11	Q. Then we'll go through it. I
12	don't want to skip over anything. How long
13	were you a police cadet?
14	A. For two years.
15	Q. After those two years, were you
16	promoted?
17	A. It was I became a police
18	officer in the City of Buffalo.
19	Q. And how long were you a police
20	officer for?
21	A. Well, if you use the term police
22	officer to describe my occupation, it would
23	be, like, 50 years.
24	Q. Okay. I am looking for a little
25	bit more granular detail than that.

1	Riga 11
2	There's sort of a I don't know
3	what the title would have been referred to
4	around 1970, but was there a police officer
5	or patrol officer type title at the Buffalo
6	Police Department?
7	A. The title back in 1970 was
8	patrolman and then transitioned over to
9	police officer.
10	MS. HUGGINS: Rob, I apologize.
11	I neglected at the beginning, we would
12	like to do read and sign with
13	permission for 60 days. I apologize.
14	MR. RICKNER: No problem at all.
15	Go nuts.
16	Q. How long were you a patrolman or
17	police officer depending on when it was?
18	A. Well, I was a uniformed police
19	officer for about ten years.
20	Q. So that takes us to approximately
21	1980?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. And in 1980, were you promoted?
24	A. It wasn't a promotion per se, but
25	I was assigned as a plainclothes officer to

1	Riga 12
2	the narcotics squad sometime around 1980.
3	Q. Would that be considered a
4	promotion?
5	A. Not at the time.
6	Q. How long were you a plainclothes
7	narcotics officer?
8	A. Well, I was with the Buffalo
9	Police Narcotics Squad for about a year or
10	two; and then I went to the drug
11	enforcement administration task force.
12	Q. Now, when you went to the DEA
13	task force, was that a joint task force in
14	that you were stilled employed by the City
15	of Buffalo; or did you actually go work for
16	the federal government?
17	A. No. It was a joint task force,
18	and I was still employed by the City.
19	Q. How long did you hold that
20	position?
21	A. Well, while I was there, I was
22	promoted to lieutenant; and I was at the
23	DEA from about 1981 or '82 until about
24	1986.
25	Q. Forgive me ignorance, but did you

1	Riga 13
2	skip over sergeant?
3	A. I never had the rank of sergeant.
4	Q. So you went from essentially
5	patrolman or uniformed officer straight to
6	lieutenant?
7	A. Right. While I was at the DEA
8	office, I was promoted to lieutenant in
9	1986. I stayed at the DEA office after
10	that for a couple of years, and then I
11	transferred or was reassigned back to the
12	Buffalo Police Narcotics Unit.
13	Q. Okay.
14	But to be clear, throughout that
15	period of time, your paychecks would be
16	written by the City of Buffalo?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. And when did you leave the
19	narcotics division or squad?
20	A. That would have been in 1992; I
21	was promoted to captain.
22	Q. Were you captain of a particular
23	division or part of the Buffalo Police
24	Department?
25	A. When I was first promoted to

1	Riga 14
2	captain, I was assigned to what they
3	referred to then as the captain's relief
4	circuit; and I went from station or
5	district depending on where they needed a
6	captain to fill in.
7	Q. And how long did you hold that
8	position?
9	A. Well, the position changed in
10	1996 when I was assigned to be the chief of
11	homicide.
12	Q. So you were assigned chief of
13	homicide in 1996?
14	A. That's correct.
15	Q. Do you remember about when in
16	1996?
17	A. I believe it was September of
18	1996.
19	Q. Now, would it be correct to say
20	that a captain is a management type role
21	within the Buffalo Police Department?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. You supervised other officers?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. In 1992 when you became captain

1	Riga 15
2	or at some other time beforehand, did you
3	get any specific training with respect to
4	supervising officers?
5	A. When I was promoted to
6	lieutenant, I attended a supervisory
7	school.
8	Q. Where was that supervisory
9	school?
10	A. It was Buffalo Police Academy.
11	Q. Aside from that supervisory
12	school between 1986 and when you became
13	captain in 1992, did you get any other
14	formal education regarding being a
15	supervisor?
16	A. I there may have been some
17	in-service training between that time, but
18	I don't recall specifically.
19	Q. What about between 1992 and when
20	you became chief of homicide in 1996?
21	A. I don't recall any specific
22	training.
23	Q. How long were you chief of
24	homicide?
25	A. For about five years.

1	Riga 16
	- · - g «
2	Q. So until about 2001?
3	A. That's correct.
4	Q. Now, in 2001, where did you go?
5	A. I became the chief of the Niagara
6	Frontier Transportation Authority Police
7	Department. I retired from the Buffalo PD
8	in 2001, and I was chief of the NFTA
9	police.
10	Q. Forgive my lack of geography, is
11	Niagara Falls fairly close to Buffalo?
12	A. Yes. But it's not Niagara Falls.
13	It's Niagara Frontier.
14	Q. Is there any relation; is it
15	about that area, like, the general Buffalo
16	
17	MS. HUGGINS: For your
18	identification, maybe it's easier if
19	you ask him what the jurisdiction of
20	the NFTA Transit Police. It will
21	become quite clear.
22	MR. RICKNER: Okay.
23	Q. What was the jurisdiction of the
24	NFTA Transit Police?
25	A. Well, we the NFTA Police had

1	Riga 17
2	jurisdiction at the Buffalo airport and the
3	rapid rail transit system. I mean, those
4	were the main function of the NFTA Police
5	was to police those two entities; but some
6	of the police officers were also involved
7	in other areas.
8	Q. Got it.
9	MS. HUGGINS: Off the record a
10	moment.
11	(Whereupon, an off-the-record
12	discussion was held.)
13	Q. After working at the NFTA, what
14	was the next position that you held?
15	A. That's when I became the chief
16	investigator at the DA's office.
17	Q. When was that?
18	A. That was 2010.
19	Q. And how many years did you hold
20	that position?
21	A. About ten.
22	Q. And after ten years, is it fair
23	to say you retired, retired?
24	A. That's correct.
25	Q. You're not currently employed?

1	Riga 18
2	A. Pardon me?
3	Q. Are you currently employed?
4	A. No, I'm not.
5	
	Q. When you became chief of homicide
6	in 1996, did you have any prior experience
7	with homicide investigations?
8	A. No.
9	Q. Prior to the time you became
10	chief of homicide, did you get any
11	particular training regarding homicide
12	investigations?
13	A. No, sir.
14	Q. Prior to becoming chief of
15	homicide in 1996, did you have any training
16	regarding how to do a line up?
17	A. I don't believe so.
18	Q. Prior to 1996 when you became
19	chief of homicide, did you have any
20	training with respect to how to do a photo
21	identification, meaning six photos and you
22	have somebody choose one?
23	A. I don't believe so.
24	Q. Prior to 1996 when you became
25	chief of homicide, did you have any

19 1 Riga 2 training regarding Brady materials by which 3 I mean in it's exculpatory information 4 that's required to be turned over to the 5 district attorney? Not that I can recall. 6 Α. 7 As of the time you became chief Ο. 8 of homicide in 1996, were you aware of what 9 Brady materials were? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Can you tell me what Brady Ο. 12 material is? 13 Brady material is material that 14 would need to be turned over to defense 15 counsel that would tend to exculpate a 16 defendant. 17 And as of 1996 when you became 0. 18 chief of homicide, were you aware of that 19 requirement under Brady v. Maryland? I believe so but -- that's the 20 Α. 2.1 best answer I can give you. 22 Fair enough. Ο. 23 Now, when you became chief of 2.4 homicide in 1996, can you explain how the 25 homicide squad was organized by which I

1	Riga 20
2	mean were there different groups of
3	officers? Was there some sort of hierarchy
4	or something else?
5	A. When I was assigned to homicide,
6	there was at least two detective sergeants,
7	I believe, that were assigned there. They
8	were the squad was broken up into
9	groups, I believe. I don't remember
10	whether it was it was either three or
11	four per group and the groups would
12	alternate working days and nights.
13	Q. Was there a sort of second in
14	command besides yourself?
15	A. Yes, there was.
16	Q. And who is that?
17	A. That was Assistant Chief William
18	Conwell (phonetic).
19	Q. Do you know whether Assistant
20	Chief Conwell is still alive?
21	A. I believe he is.
22	Q. What were Assistant Chief
23	Conwell's duties at the homicide squad?
24	A. It was his duties were to
25	supervise the detectives/investigators

21 1 Riga 2 assigned there. 3 Was there any particular Q. 4 difference between your duties and his? 5 I would say that he worked more 6 closely with the -- with the investigators. 7 Mine was a little bit more administrative 8 than his. 9 The two detective sergeants, were Ο. 10 their responsibilities different than that 11 of the other detectives at the homicide 12 squad? 13 They weren't really different to 14 any great extent. 15 When a homicide occurred and was Q. reported, would a particular group of 16 17 detectives be assigned to it? 18 When a homicide occurred, the --19 either the police dispatcher would notify 20 detectives that were on duty that they were 2.1 needed at a particular scene; or if there 22 were no detectives on duty at that time, 23 the assistant chief of detectives, not 2.4 lieutenant -- not Conwell but a different 25 group of assistant chief of detectives that

22 1 Riga 2 would be working around the clock, would 3 notify homicide personnel that they were needed. 4 5 What is this different group of 6 detectives? 7 I don't know what you mean by 8 that question. 9 Well, you just referred to a group of detectives that wasn't with the 10 11 homicide squad. 12 No. I referred to a group of 13 assistant chief of detectives. 14 Oh, assistant chief of 15 detectives. 16 What was their role in the 17 Buffalo Police Department? 18 The assistant chiefs worked out of the chief of detectives office. 19 20 weren't really investigators. They were 2.1 more administrators and assistant chief of 22 detectives was on duty 24 hours a day and 23 handled situations that would come up that 2.4 required detective homicide bureau 25 personnel.

23 1 Riga It would be fair to say that some 2 Ο. 3 homicide investigations took a good deal 4 longer than others, right? 5 Α. Yes. 6 Was there somebody who was Ο. 7 selected as the assigned detective or lead 8 detective for a particular homicide? 9 I think generally speaking, 10 whatever detectives responded to the scene 11 of that homicide would be responsible for a 12 follow up investigation but not by them 13 exclusively. It would be their case, but 14 other detectives would be involved in 15 follow up. 16 Q. Would it be correct to say that 17 in some investigations there have been decisions made as to which leads were 18 19 followed up and which witnesses were spoken 20 to? 2.1 Α. Yes. 22 Who would make that decision with Ο. 23 respect to a homicide investigation? 2.4 Well, it would depend on the case Α. 25 itself and the circumstances.

1	Riga 24
2	Q. Well, what are the different
3	options depending on circumstances?
4	A. It could be the detectives
5	themselves. It might have been the Chief
6	Conwell or myself.
7	Q. So would it be correct to say
8	when a decision is made to follow up on a
9	lead, for example, that would be made
10	either by the group of detectives that
11	responded to the scene or by yourself or
12	Assistant Chief Conwell?
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. Now, were you working as the
15	chief of homicide when Tomika Means was
16	murdered?
17	A. I'm not sure what you mean by
18	working.
19	Q. Were you the chief of homicide
20	when Tomika Means was murdered?
21	A. Yes, I was.
22	Q. As you sit here today, do you
23	remember that homicide?
24	A. I remember certain parts about
25	the homicide, but I also was involved in an

1	Riga 25
2	exoneration investigation of Cory Epps so
3	there's some conflation between what I know
4	from that investigation and what I
5	remembered from the homicide itself.
6	Q. Understood. And I will do my
7	best to try to tease those two out.
8	A. Okay.
9	Q. Can we grab Exhibit 79.
10	MS. HUGGINS: Seventy-nine is in
11	front of the witness.
12	Q. Now, is there a name for this
13	particular type of memorandum at the
14	Buffalo Police Department?
15	A. That's generally referred to as a
16	P73.
17	Q. Do you remember if at some point
18	there was an actual form with the indicator
19	P73 on it?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. And then that carried over to
22	when there was digital reports?
23	A. Yes, sir.
24	Q. So taking aside the content of
25	this report, when a report like this was

1	Riga 26
2	finished, it says, To Joseph Riga, Chief of
3	Homicide, what would happen to the report?
4	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
5	answer.
6	MR. RICKNER: Let me ask that a
7	better way.
8	Q. Looking at Exhibit 79 on the top
9	it says, To Joseph Riga; do you see that?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Would you actually get a copy of
12	each P73 when it was finished?
13	A. Not necessarily.
14	MS. HUGGINS: Form. And Rob,
15	I'll tell you what my form objection
16	is. To his use of the word finished,
17	I'm not sure what you mean by that.
18	Q. Looking at Exhibit 79 on the
19	bottom of the second page, it's signed by
20	Juan Morales (phonetic), Detective; do you
21	see that?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. One aside, do you know if Juan
24	Morales was still alive?
25	A. I don't know for sure. I haven't

1	Riga 27
2	heard anything about him not being alive.
3	Q. Okay. Fair enough.
4	Would it be correct at some point
5	a P73 is finalized; it's completed and it's
6	placed into the file?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. When that P73 is completed, would
9	you actually get a copy of it?
10	A. Not necessarily.
11	Q. Okay.
12	Can you tell me what instances
13	you would get a copy of a P73 and what
14	instances you wouldn't?
15	A. If I would see a particular
16	P73 if I happen to be interested in a file
17	or events that might have taken place that
18	would cause me to want to look at a
19	particular one; but my name is there, I
20	think, mainly as a formality more than
21	anything else.
22	Q. Okay.
23	So it would be correct to say
24	that you did not sit and read each P73 with
25	respect to each homicide?

1	Riga 28
2	A. That would be fair to say.
3	Q. Now, would you take steps to keep
4	tabs on a homicide investigation, if you
5	know what I mean by that?
6	A. Yes. I think I know what you
7	mean, and it would depend on the case
8	itself.
9	Q. Okay.
10	Well, let's go take a case like
11	the Tomika Means homicide, which took
12	several months before an arrest was made;
13	is that fair to say?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. There were quite a few different
16	people who were interviewed prior to when
17	an arrest was made; is that correct?
18	A. That's correct.
19	Q. Okay.
20	So for a case like the Tomika
21	Means' homicide, how would you supervise
22	the detectives?
23	A. Well, in the case of Tomika
24	Means' homicide specifically, I don't
25	recall being very much involved in

29 1 Riga 2 anything. 3 Q. Okay. I understand that, and I 4 understand that it may be difficult to 5 perfectly tease out the work you did for the district attorney's office and what 6 7 happened in the 1990s; so I'm going more 8 general. 9 For a case like the Tomika Means' homicide, even if you can't remember 10 11 exactly what steps you took with respect to 12 that exact homicide, how would you go about 13 supervising the detectives? 14 Well, if there was a case that I 15 felt needed my supervision, I would review 16 all of the facts and circumstances and 17 direct appropriately. How would you determine that a 18 19 case needed your supervision? 20 If it was a high profile case, Α. 2.1 something noteworthy, it would depend on 22 the circumstances. 23 Q. Okay. 2.4 To the best of your recollection, 25 the Tomika Means' homicide did not fall

1	Riga 30
2	into one of those categories where it
3	required your supervision?
4	A. You would be asking me to answer
5	for something that happened that long ago
6	that I don't remember.
7	Q. Okay.
8	So it would be correct to say
9	that you don't remember one way or the
10	other with respect to the answer to that
11	question?
12	A. I remember that I didn't have
13	very much involvement in that particular
14	case.
15	Q. Now, it would be fair to say that
16	there were some homicides that went to
17	trial?
18	A. I'm sorry. Would you repeat
19	that?
20	Q. Some homicide cases would,
21	ultimately, go to trial?
22	A. That's correct.
23	Q. And when a homicide case went to
24	trial, the officers or detectives rather in
25	the homicide squad would have to testify,

1	Riga 31
2	right?
3	A. Usually.
4	Q. When there was a homicide trial
5	going on, would you generally be aware of
6	it?
7	A. I would be aware of it just
8	because people in the office would be
9	coming in for court or letting me know they
10	were going to court, but that would be
11	about the extent of it.
12	Q. If there was a homicide trial
13	going on, would there be discussions
14	generally about that trial inside of the
15	homicide squad amongst the detectives?
16	A. Probably.
17	Q. As you sit here today, do you
18	remember anything about the trial of Cory
19	Epps in the 1990s?
20	A. No. I only recall that there was
21	a trial.
22	Q. Fair enough.
23	MR. RICKNER: Can we pull, let's
24	go with Exhibit 38.
25	MS. HUGGINS: Exhibit 38 is in

1	Riga 32
2	front of the witness.
3	Q. Now, Exhibit 38 refers to the
4	murder of a man named Paul Pope; do you see
5	that?
6	A. Yes, I do.
7	Q. As you sit here today, do you
8	remember anything about the Paul Pope
9	murder?
10	A. Yes. I do remember certain
11	things.
12	Q. Okay.
13	What do you remember about the
14	Paul Pope murder investigation?
15	A. I remember that there was blood
16	found on a washing machine or a dryer that
17	was in the basement that kind of led to the
18	arrest of Russell Montgomery later on.
19	Q. While you were chief of homicide,
20	was there a particular procedure that the
21	detectives were required to use when
22	creating the P73s?
23	A. I don't know of any specific
24	procedure.
25	Q. Would it be correct to say that

1	Riga 33
2	some detectives took notes that were then
3	incorporated or used to draft a P73?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. What would happen to those notes
6	after the P73 was drafted?
7	A. They were included in the file.
8	Q. And if those notes were not
9	included in the file, would that be cause
10	for concern?
11	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
12	answer.
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. Why would you be concerned if the
15	notes related to P73 weren't included in
16	the file?
17	A. Because it was it was the
18	practice of the homicide investigators in
19	every homicide office to always make sure
20	that the notes were included in the file.
21	Q. And would part of that reason be
22	those notes needed to be turned over to
23	defense attorneys so they can use them as
24	part of their trial defense?
25	A. Yeah. Everybody knew that they

1	Riga 34
2	were discoverable.
3	Q. By discoverable, you mean turned
4	over to defense attorneys, ultimately, if a
5	case goes to trial?
6	A. That's correct.
7	Q. Now, was there a phone number you
8	could call inside the Buffalo Police
9	Department where you could make a recording
10	that was then dictated?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Okay.
13	Was there a name for that group?
14	A. I don't know what you mean by
15	group.
16	Q. Well, this service where you
17	could call in and leave a message and it
18	would be dictated, did that have a name?
19	A. I if there is one, I don't
20	recall what it was.
21	Q. Were those tapes retained?
22	A. I don't know.
23	Q. At any time at your time at the
24	Buffalo Police Department, do you remember
25	somebody going and getting those dictated

1	Riga 35
2	tapes?
3	A. I don't have any recollection of
4	that as we sit here now.
5	Q. Was there a particular reason why
6	an officer's notes were retained, but his
7	oral statements on the dictation were not?
8	MS. HUGGINS: Form. And there's
9	nothing in the record to suggest that
10	they were or were not retained.
11	Q. You can answer.
12	A. Would you repeat the question,
13	please?
14	Q. To your knowledge, is there any
15	reason why the notes related to a P73 would
16	be retained in the file but a dictated
17	statement would not be?
18	A. I don't know the answer to that.
19	Q. And going to your counsel's
20	point, do you ever remember opening up a
21	homicide file and seeing a tape with
22	dictation related to a P73?
23	A. No.
24	MR. RICKNER: Now, I would like
25	to pull up, let's do these together,

1	Riga 36
2	Exhibits 1 and 8.
3	MS. HUGGINS: Exhibits 1 and 8
4	are in front of the witness.
5	Q. Now, let's just start with
6	Exhibit 1.
7	Are you familiar with this kind
8	of activity report by which I mean the form
9	rather than the specific content of
10	Exhibit 1?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. What were these activity reports
13	used for?
14	A. It was to let supervisors know
15	what the investigators were doing.
16	Q. Okay.
17	Now, looking at Exhibit 1, would
18	it be fair to say that based on the file
19	numbers, this particular report has
20	information about three different cases?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Would a copy of this form be
23	placed in each homicide file?
24	A. I don't believe so.
25	Q. Where were these forms collected,

1	Riga 37
2	if anywhere?
3	A. I don't know.
4	Q. Would the four activity reports
5	like the one in Exhibit 1 be placed on your
6	desk for your review periodically or
7	something similar?
8	A. Not that I can recall.
9	Q. Would they go to Lieutenant
10	Conwell?
11	A. I don't know.
12	Q. At the bottom, there's a section
13	on Exhibit 1 that says initial after
14	reading; do you see that?
15	A. I do see it.
16	Q. And it's addressed to detective
17	sergeants, detectives, and A/detectives, do
18	you see that?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. What is the A/detective?
21	A. Acting.
22	Q. So would there be an expectation
23	that this form would be read by multiple
24	people at the homicide squad?
25	A. I don't believe so. I think that

1	Riga 38
2	the bottom section that you're referring to
3	is for whoever prepared the report to
4	initial it.
5	Q. Well, it says initial after
6	reading. Do you see that?
7	A. Okay.
8	Q. Can we agree that suggests that
9	it's somebody reading it, not recording it?
10	A. I'm sorry. Would you clarify
11	that?
12	Q. Well, the phrase initial after
13	reading suggests that somebody is reading
14	it, not drafting it, right?
15	A. Right.
16	Q. So if you remember, were these
17	activity reports like the one on Exhibit 1
18	in a place where multiple different
19	detectives could review them?
20	A. I don't remember.
21	Q. Now, there's a section at the
22	bottom of Exhibit 1 where it states in sum
23	and substance that Linda Means, the aunt of
24	the victim, Tomika Means, called and she
25	heard that people were saying that Cory

1	Riga 39
2	Epps did the shooting; do you see that?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. Is that the type of information
5	that should be reported in a P73?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. As a supervisor, would you be
8	concerned if this information was not
9	reported in the P73?
10	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
11	answer.
12	A. Depends on what you mean by
13	concerned. I would prefer it be in a P73.
14	I don't know, you know, what the reason
15	if it wasn't included, I don't know why it
16	wouldn't have been. I think I would have
17	inquired of that.
18	Q. Now, I would like to go to
19	Exhibit 8.
20	Is it fair to say that Exhibit 8
21	is the same kind of activity report as
22	Exhibit 1?
23	A. That's fair to say.
24	Q. Now, in the bottom half of
25	Exhibit 8, it states in sum and substance

1	Riga 40
2	that this aunt, Linda Means, says that she
3	saw the composite of the suspect and she
4	thought it looked like Cory Epps; do you
5	see that?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. And afterwards it says submitted
8	for a mug and record and FRAP on this guy;
9	do you see that?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Now, mug would refer to mug shot,
12	right?
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. Would record refer to criminal
15	record?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. What is a FRAP, F-R-A-P, in this
18	context?
19	A. I think that would have been the
20	state record or NCIC record.
21	Q. So it's another form of a
22	criminal record?
23	A. More elaborate form. It would
24	show arrests out of state, at least outside
25	the area.

1	Riga 41
2	Q. Now, is this entry the type of
3	information that you would expect to be
4	placed into a P73?
5	A. Yes.
6	Q. Now, I'm going to represent to
7	you that this particular phone call is,
8	according to the records we have, the first
9	time that Cory Epps' name ever comes up
10	with respect to the Tomika Means' homicide.
11	Would it have been the correct
12	practice of the detective squad to
13	investigate and question Linda Means
14	regarding her knowledge of Cory Epps?
15	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
16	answer.
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. As you sit here today, do you
19	know if that was ever done?
20	A. No, I don't.
21	Q. From your time working at the
22	Buffalo Police Department prior to the
23	Tomika Means' homicide, did you know the
24	name Cory Epps?
25	A. No.

1	Riga 42
2	Q. Would it be fair to say that
3	based on your knowledge, he was not
4	generally a person of interest at the
5	Buffalo Police Department?
6	A. I couldn't say one way or the
7	other.
8	Q. What about Tomika Means, prior to
9	her homicide, did you have any interaction
10	or knowledge of her?
11	A. No.
12	Q. What about her aunt, Linda Means?
13	A. Not that I know of.
14	Q. Do you remember somebody named
15	Jackie Bradley (phonetic)?
16	A. Only from the reports and from
17	the investigation into Cory Epps that we
18	did at the DA's office.
19	Q. Would it be correct to say then
20	that you didn't have any knowledge of
21	Jackie Bradley prior to the Tomika Means'
22	homicide?
23	A. That's correct.
24	Q. I believe we've established that
25	you didn't work on homicides really prior

1	Riga 43
2	to 1996, but did you work on other
3	investigations that required you to employ
4	ID procedures?
5	A. Not generally. I think I was,
6	you know, I was investigator in the
7	narcotics squad and at the DEA task force;
8	and I may have had occasion to do something
9	related to identification, but I don't
10	recall specifically.
11	MR. RICKNER: Now, is this a good
12	time for a break by the way for five
13	minutes? We've been going about 45.
14	MS. HUGGINS: What's your
15	general not rushing one way or the
16	other.
17	MR. RICKNER: I'm not going to
18	make promises I can't keep, but I would
19	be shocked if this went past 3:00.
20	MS. HUGGINS: Okay. Let's take
21	five.
22	(Whereupon, a short recess was
23	taken.)
24	Q. Chief Riga, have you ever had
25	your deposition taken by which I mean a

1	Riga 44
2	process like this where you testify around
3	a conference table usually?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. How many times?
6	A. Probably four or five times.
7	Q. Were any of those cases related
8	to your work as a police officer?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. What kinds of cases were they?
11	A. Well, I'll give you one for an
12	example; the last one that I did involved a
13	police shooting.
14	Q. Were you involved in the police
15	shooting?
16	A. No.
17	Q. Were you a supervisor?
18	A. No. I investigated when I was at
19	DA's office.
20	Q. And there was a later lawsuit,
21	and you testified in that lawsuit as a
22	non-party witness?
23	A. That's correct.
24	Q. Were you able to get a copy of
25	that transcript to review following your

45 1 Riga 2 testimony? 3 Α. No. And I requested one, and I 4 was never given one so --5 Have you testified in any other 6 civil rights cases? 7 I've testified in other civil 8 I'm not sure if civil rights cases cases. 9 would be the correct term. 10 Have you testified in any other 11 cases where somebody alleges either police 12 misconduct or a constitutional violation? 13 I probably have, but I don't 14 remember specifically which cases it would 15 have been. 16 Following any of your Q. 17 depositions, were you given a copy of your transcript to review? 18 I don't believe so. 19 Α. 20 Well, I'll tell you that in this Ο. 2.1 case you will be given a copy; and you will 22 be allowed to make corrections. But I do 23 want to inform you that if you do make 2.4 corrections, I can comment on that during 25 cross-examination at trial; do you

1	Riga 46
2	understand?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. Now, I would like to pull out
5	let's go with Exhibit 9 and Exhibit 3.
6	MS. HUGGINS: What was the second
7	number you said, Rob?
8	MR. RICKNER: 9 and 3.
9	MS. HUGGINS: The exhibits are in
10	front of the witness.
11	Q. Now, I would like you to look at
12	Exhibit 9; and tell me if you recognize
13	this type of document generally.
14	A. I do not recognize Exhibit 9.
15	Q. Just going to page and I don't
16	mean Exhibit 9 specifically. I mean this
17	type of document. For example, looking at
18	the second page of Exhibit 9, can you tell
19	me what it is?
20	A. It's a photo array.
21	Q. Looking at Exhibit 9, is this the
22	standard form used for a photo array at the
23	Buffalo Police Department in the nineties?
24	A. Which page of Exhibit 9 are you
25	referring to?

1	Riga 47
2	Q. Well, my understanding is the
3	whole thing is one single photo; but if I'm
4	wrong, please tell me if these are, for
5	example, multiple different documents.
6	A. Well, I have five pages of
7	Exhibit 9. One looks like a photo array.
8	The top page I am not familiar with, and
9	the rest look like handwritten notes that I
10	have no idea what they are.
11	Q. And then at the very end you have
12	a photograph of Mr. Epps, right?
13	A. That's on the fourth page that I
14	have.
15	Q. Yes, okay.
16	Would it be fair to say that in
17	order to develop a photo array like the one
18	in Exhibit 9, you would get a photograph of
19	the suspect and then five fillers; you
20	would lay them out and then you would show
21	it to a witness?
22	A. Yes.
23	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
24	answer.
25	A. Yes.

48 1 Riga 2 Beyond what I just described, are Q. 3 you familiar with the process used at 4 Buffalo Police Department for creating the photo array in the 1990s? 5 6 Well, back in 1996, there may Α. 7 have been more than one process used by 8 officers in the Buffalo Police Department. 9 Well, let me make this more 10 simple, where would you get the fillers to 11 make the photo array? 12 Photographs of people that have 13 been arrested for various crimes. 14 But more specifically, where 15 would you go to get the fillers inside of 16 the Buffalo Police Department to make a 17 photo array? 18 My recollection is that some 19 detectives had a stack or stacks of photos 20 that they kept for their own personal use, 2.1 and others may have gone to the 22 identification bureau and looked through 23 various files or asked for help from 2.4 somebody up there to get photographs of 25 people that may resemble the suspect.

1	Riga 49
2	Q. I would like you to take a look
3	at Exhibit 3.
4	Do you recognize, if not
5	Exhibit 3 specifically, but the form that's
6	depicted on Exhibit 3?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. Would it be correct to say that
9	when fillers were obtained from the police
10	photographic unit, that there had to be a
11	record of which fillers were chosen?
12	A. Yes.
13	MR. RICKNER: Now, I would like
14	to mark the new exhibit as Exhibit 96.
15	(Whereupon, the aforementioned
16	photo array was marked as Exhibit 96
17	for identification as of this date by
18	the Reporter.)
19	MS. HUGGINS: The exhibit is in
20	front of the witness.
21	Q. Now, is it correct to say that
22	Exhibit 96 is a photo array?
23	A. It appears to be.
24	Q. Now, if you look at Exhibit 96,
25	the number five slot does not have a photo;

1	Riga 50
2	is that fair to say?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. If you flip it over, however, you
5	can see a block where there's a signature;
6	do you see that?
7	A. Yes.
8	Q. And it says I have positively
9	identified the photo in slot number five as
10	the person that I saw shoot Tomika Means on
11	5/26/97, signed Jackie Bradley, date
12	7/6/97 at 9:05 p.m. Do you see that?
13	A. Yes, I do.
14	Q. So is it fair to say that this
15	photo array contains the suspect Cory Epps?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. Now, I would like you to look at
18	Exhibit 9. This exhibit on the second
19	page, I think it's fair to say also is
20	meant to say number five.
21	MS. HUGGINS: Rob, can you repeat
22	your question?
23	Q. Would it be correct to say that
24	the second page of Exhibit 9 is a photo
25	array that's also missing photograph number

1	Riga 51
2	five?
3	A. I would say that five is not
4	included. I don't know whether it's
5	missing or not, but it's not included.
6	Q. Okay.
7	Is it correct to say that based
8	on the last two pages of Exhibit 9, there's
9	a photograph of Cory Epps?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. And if you look at the ID number,
12	it says 161052 on that photograph; is that
13	right?
14	A. That's correct.
15	Q. And if you look at the front page
16	of Exhibit 9, there is a slot number five
17	and it says 161052; do you see that?
18	A. No, I don't. What are we looking
19	at?
20	Q. Go to the first page of
21	Exhibit 9.
22	A. Okay. And your question again,
23	sir.
24	Q. Do you see the slot number five
25	entry 161052?

1	Riga 52
2	A. Yes, I do.
3	Q. And that matches the mug number
4	for Cory Epps?
5	A. Yes, it does.
6	Q. So would it be correct to say
7	that Exhibit 9 is a photo array where Cory
8	Epps is the suspect?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. Now, I would like you to look at
11	the second page of Exhibit 9 and compare it
12	to the first page of Exhibit 96.
13	A. All right. The first page of
14	Exhibit 9 and compare to what?
15	Q. It's the second page of Exhibit 9
16	and the first page of Exhibit 96. So if
17	you're looking at the photographs, do you
18	see that?
19	A. Yes, sir.
20	Q. Would it be correct to say that
21	the fillers depicted in Exhibit 9 are not
22	the same fillers depicted in Exhibit 96?
23	MS. HUGGINS: For the record, the
24	Exhibit 96 that the witness is viewing
25	is in black and white. It is not a

1	Riga 53
2	color copy.
3	A. And there are no numbers.
4	Q. Does it look like this?
5	MS. HUGGINS: I mean, it is what
6	you have emailed. It is just he has
7	a black and white version in front of
8	him. I do not have access to a color
9	printer right now.
10	MR. RICKNER: Okay.
11	Q. But color or lack of color, can
12	you see the faces of the fillers on each of
13	these exhibits?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. Can we agree that these are not
16	the same document, that these are two
17	different photo arrays?
18	A. It appears to be that way.
19	Q. Do you know why two photo arrays
20	were generated for Cory Epps?
21	A. I don't know why in this
22	particular case.
23	Q. Based on your experience as the
24	chief of homicide, was it normal for two
25	photo arrays to be generated with respect

1	Riga 54
2	to a single suspect?
3	A. Yes. It would be normal if we
4	were showing those photo arrays to
5	different viewers.
6	Q. Where were the photo arrays with
7	respect to a homicide investigation after
8	they were used stored?
9	A. They would have been part of the
10	file.
11	Q. When you say part of the file,
12	you mean that it would have been placed
13	into the homicide file for this particular
14	investigation?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. We've discussed briefly the Paul
17	Pope homicide; is that fair?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. From 1998, if you can establish
20	your memory from things you learned more
21	recently, do you remember what Wymiko
22	Anderson AKA Pumpkin being a witness in the
23	Paul Pope homicide?
24	MS. HUGGINS: Initial
25	investigation.

1	Riga 55
2	MR. RICKNER: Correct.
3	MS. HUGGINS: You can answer.
4	A. Would you repeat it?
5	Q. Well, overall, is it fair to say
6	that Wymiko Anderson was a witness with
7	respect to the Paul Pope homicide?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. Going back to 1998, do you
10	remember Wymiko Anderson coming into the
11	Buffalo Police Department Homicide Squad?
12	A. No.
13	Q. As you sit here today, do you
14	know how many times she came to the
15	homicide squad?
16	A. I don't know if she ever did.
17	Q. Okay.
18	In April of 1998, do you remember
19	anyone at the homicide squad suggesting
20	that Russell Montgomery may have killed
21	Tomika Means?
22	A. No, sir.
23	Q. If you became aware of the fact
24	that Wymiko Anderson had said Russell
25	Montgomery killed Tomika Means, would you

1	Riga 56
2	have made sure that information got to the
3	district attorney?
4	A. I know that we would have been
5	investigated further, and eventually that
6	information would have been given to the
7	district attorney.
8	Q. And the reason it would have been
9	given to the district attorney was because
10	it was Brady material, right?
11	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
12	answer.
13	A. Yeah. That and the fact that it
14	would be important information about their
15	case.
16	Q. Now, I would like you to pull up,
17	if you could, Exhibit 73, and also
18	MS. HUGGINS: 73?
19	MR. RICKNER: Yes, 73, please.
20	MS. HUGGINS: Exhibit 73 is in
21	front of the witness.
22	MR. RICKNER: Great. Thank you.
23	Q. Are you familiar with Exhibit 73,
24	meaning do you recognize this document at
25	all?

1	Riga 57
2	A. Looking at it, I know what it is
3	and what it's about.
4	Q. Okay.
5	Do you remember Cory Epps stating
6	that he had an alibi with respect to the
7	Tomika Means murder?
8	A. I don't recall that specifically,
9	but I do recall Investigator Constantino
10	following that route to whatever restaurant
11	it was late at night.
12	Q. Would it be correct to say that
13	Detective Constantino drove this route in
14	an attempt to undermine Cory Epps' alibi
15	that he was at this restaurant?
16	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
17	answer.
18	A. I wouldn't use the term alibi
19	or undermine.
20	Q. Okay.
21	Well, what term would you use?
22	A. To investigate whether or not it
23	was possible to make it from point A to
24	point B in that amount of time.
25	Q. Okay.

1	Riga 58
2	Now, based on Exhibit 73, is it
3	fair to say that this took place on
4	April 21st, withdrawn. Let me ask a
5	better question.
6	Based on Exhibit 73, would it be
7	correct to say that Detective Constantino
8	drove the route to see if it was possible
9	on April 21st, 1998?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Do you know why he decided to
12	drive this route to see if it was possible
13	a year after the Tomika Means homicide
14	almost?
15	A. I don't know.
16	Q. Do you know who tasked him with
17	driving this route to see if it was
18	possible?
19	A. I do not.
20	Q. Is there any chance it would have
21	been you?
22	A. I don't recall it. I don't think
23	so.
24	Q. I would like you to pull up
25	Exhibit 33. Do you recognize the

1	Riga 59
2	handwriting on Exhibit 33?
3	A. No, I don't.
4	Q. Are you familiar with the Perkins
5	Family Restaurant from the 1990s in
6	Buffalo?
7	A. Yes, sir.
8	Q. Was it open 24 hours a day?
9	A. I believe so.
10	Q. Was it the kind of place that
11	police officers sometimes hung out at
12	because it was open 24 hours a day?
13	A. I don't know.
14	Q. Did you ever go to the Perkins
15	Family Restaurant with other officers in
16	the 1990s to get food late at night?
17	A. I don't think so.
18	MR. RICKNER: Now, I'll try to
19	make this fast. Maeve, can you pull up
20	the block of handwritten documents,
21	Exhibits 15 through 27 as well as 62?
22	MS. HUGGINS: What about 28?
23	MR. RICKNER: I'm just going
24	through 27.
25	MS. HUGGINS: Okay.

1	Riga 60
2	MR. RICKNER: There are a few
3	others I may have given up on.
4	MS. HUGGINS: Okay. And then the
5	last number I forgot.
6	MR. RICKNER: Sixty-two.
7	MS. HUGGINS: All right. The
8	witness has all the exhibits.
9	Q. Now, previously I've gone through
10	these one by one; but I think we can be a
11	bit more abbreviated. Can you please look
12	through Exhibits 15 through 27 for me.
13	Take as much time as you feel is necessary,
14	and tell me if you recognize the
15	handwriting on any of the exhibits; and if
16	you do, please tell me which ones and then
17	I'll ask some follow-up questions, okay?
18	A. Okay. Reviewed exhibits through
19	27.
20	Q. Do you recognize any of the
21	handwriting?
22	A. I see various forms of
23	handwriting. I don't know who made those
24	reports.
25	Q. Now, at some point you were

1	Riga 61
2	involved in the reinvestigation into the
3	Tomika Means murder and Cory Epps
4	conviction; is that correct?
5	A. Yes.
6	Q. Can you tell me when you first
7	became involved in the reinvestigation?
8	A. When I became involved when I was
9	working at the DA's office, I don't
10	remember the year; but it was somewhere
11	around 2013, around there, 2014 maybe.
12	Q. Sorry to go back, I think I may
13	have misspoken.
14	Did you look at Exhibit 62; and
15	if so, did you recognize the handwriting?
16	I think I only went through 27 on the
17	record?
18	A. Yeah. I reviewed the exhibit. I
19	don't know whose handwriting that is.
20	Q. So going back to the topic at
21	hand, how did you become involved in the
22	reinvestigation?
23	A. Was requested by Tom Finnerty
24	(phonetic) who was his title was counsel
25	to the DA, I believe, or something like

1	Riga 62
2	that. He requested I assist him in the
3	investigation.
4	Q. At that point, had any
5	significant portion of the reinvestigation
6	been done?
7	A. No.
8	Q. So would it be correct to say
9	that you got involved at the beginning of
10	the reinvestigation?
11	A. Yes, sir.
12	Q. Do you know why the
13	reinvestigation was launched?
14	A. Because our office became aware
15	of a new witness in the matter.
16	MS. HUGGINS: Can you identify
17	when you say our office who you're
18	speaking of?
19	A. The district attorney's office.
20	Q. Would that be witness one?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. And did you become aware of this
23	information through Cory Epps' counsel?
24	A. Yes, sir.
25	Q. After you received this

1	Riga 63
2	information, what was the first set of
3	steps you took in the reinvestigation?
4	A. I attempted to interview Wymiko
5	Anderson.
6	Q. Were you successful in those
7	efforts?
8	A. Not initially.
9	Q. At some point, were you
10	successful in interviewing Wymiko Anderson?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Can you tell me roughly what year
13	that was?
14	A. I'm going to say somewhere around
15	2007, 2008, I'm not sure.
16	Q. Do you think
17	A. I'm sorry.
18	Q. There's no way that's true, so
19	let's try again.
20	A. No. I've got my decades mixed up
21	here. No, it would have been 2016, 2017.
22	Q. Okay.
23	How long did you interview Wymiko
24	Anderson?
25	A. Probably for about an hour.

1	Riga 64
2	Q. And did you make a record of that
3	interview?
4	A. I believe I did.
5	Q. Did you record that interview?
6	A. No. You mean
7	Q. When I say record, I mean audio
8	or video.
9	A. No.
10	Q. Did you learn anything
11	significant during that interview?
12	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
13	answer.
14	A. Yeah, I don't specifically recall
15	what Wymiko Anderson said during an
16	interview.
17	Q. As you sit here today, do you
18	remember anything that Wymiko Anderson told
19	you that was significant to your
20	reinvestigation?
21	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
22	answer.
23	A. I'm sorry. I believe that she
24	told us that Paul Pope told her that
25	Russell Montgomery killed Tomika Means.

1	Riga 65
2	Q. Do you believe that it's possible
3	that Russell Montgomery killed Paul Pope
4	because Paul Pope was talking about the
5	murder of Tomika Means?
6	A. Yes.
7	MS. HUGGINS: Form. And I'm
8	going to object on the grounds that it
9	calls for speculation.
10	MR. RICKNER: Okay.
11	Q. What was your impression of
12	Wymiko Anderson by which I mean her
13	demeanor, how she provided information, et
14	cetera?
15	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
16	answer.
17	A. She was very animated, and I
18	don't know how else to describe her.
19	Q. Did you ever feel as though she
20	was being dishonest?
21	A. I wasn't sure because we had
22	other information that conflicted with what
23	she was telling us.
24	Q. What other information did you
25	have that conflicted with what she was

1	Riga 66
2	telling you?
3	A. She said that she spent the night
4	with Paul Pope, and someone else had told
5	us that that person spent the night with
6	Paul Pope.
7	Q. Would that other person be
8	witness one?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. So going back to the initial
11	steps of the investigation, you stated that
12	you tried to speak with Wymiko Anderson;
13	and it actually took a few years for you to
14	accomplish that. In the interim, what were
15	the next steps you took in the
16	reinvestigation?
17	A. Well, I conferred with Tom
18	Finnerty; and then nothing more happened
19	until we interviewed witness one.
20	Q. When did you interview witness
21	one?
22	A. I'm sorry?
23	Q. When did you interview witness
24	one?
25	A. I couldn't tell you the date.

1	Riga 67
2	Q. Could you tell me the year?
3	A. I would be approximating, 2016,
4	2017.
5	Q. Now, besides attempting to
6	interview Wymiko Anderson, between the
7	beginning of the reinvestigation and this
8	interview with witness one, did you take
9	any other steps with respect to the
10	reinvestigation?
11	A. No.
12	Q. Did you obtain photographs during
13	this time of Russell Montgomery and Cory
14	Epps?
15	A. I don't believe so.
16	Q. How long did your interview
17	witness one for?
18	A. I believe we interviewed witness
19	one on at least three occasions, and the
20	first time was to the best of my
21	recollection a couple of hours.
22	Q. Did you make a record, a written
23	record of that interview?
24	A. I don't recall.
25	Q. Did you report it, by which I

1	Riga 68
2	mean audio or video?
3	A. No, sir.
4	Q. Did you find witness one to be
5	credible?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Did witness one tell you anything
8	with respect to Russell Montgomery that was
9	significant to the reinvestigation?
10	A. Yes. Yes, that witness did.
11	Q. What did witness one tell you?
12	A. That Paul Pope told her that
13	Russell Montgomery killed Tomika Means.
14	Q. Following the interview with
15	witness one, did you take any additional
16	steps in the reinvestigation?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. What did you do following the
19	interview with witness one?
20	A. We interviewed several other
21	individuals that we believe may have had
22	information.
23	Q. Which other individuals did you
24	interview?
25	A. Jaclyn Bradley and I can't think

1	Riga 69
2	of the names of the other people we may
3	have interviewed at this point.
4	Q. The other people that you
5	interviewed, would they have been police
6	officers or lay witnesses or something
7	else?
8	A. They wouldn't have been police
9	officers.
10	Q. They wouldn't have been?
11	A. They would not have been.
12	Q. So the other people that you
13	interviewed were civilian witnesses?
14	A. That's correct.
15	Q. Did you interview somebody named
16	Gino Johnson (phonetic)?
17	A. I don't recall.
18	Q. Did you interview somebody named
19	Linda Means?
20	A. I don't recall that either.
21	Q. Did you interview somebody named
22	Agnes Means?
23	A. I don't know. I don't remember.
24	Q. But it's correct to say that you
25	interviewed Jackie Bradley?

1	Riga 70
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. How long did that interview take?
4	A. No more than 15 or 20 minutes.
5	Q. Did you discuss the procedure by
6	which she identified Cory Epps?
7	A. That may have been part of our
8	discussion. I don't recall specifically.
9	Q. Did she tell you anything about
10	how it was she came to identify Cory Epps?
11	A. I don't recall that specifically
12	either.
13	Q. Did you show her photographs of
14	Russell Montgomery?
15	A. I don't remember.
16	Q. Given that Russell Montgomery was
17	the new suspect, can you think of any
18	reason why you wouldn't have shown the
19	eyewitness photographs of Russell
20	Montgomery?
21	MS. HUGGINS: Form.
22	A. Ms. Bradley was very, very
23	adamant that she picked out the right
24	person, that it was Cory Epps. She became
25	somewhat hostile towards us, and, in fact,

1	Riga 71
2	asked us to leave.
3	Q. Who was with you during that
4	interview?
5	A. It was Investigator Anthony
6	Constantino.
7	Q. Anyone else?
8	A. No.
9	Q. Following these interviews of
10	civilian witnesses, did you take any other
11	steps with respect to the reinvestigation?
12	A. We did other things with the
13	investigation. I couldn't tell you right
14	now what they were but we did a lot of work
15	on it.
16	Q. What kinds of things did you do?
17	A. Interviews, records, I obtained
18	photographs of Russell Montgomery and Cory
19	Epps when they were first admitted to the
20	state prison system.
21	Q. And looking at the photographs of
22	Russell Montgomery and Cory Epps, did you
23	see resemblance?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. How would you describe that?

72 1 Riga 2 Very strong resemblance. 3 Besides the statements by Wymiko Q. 4 Anderson and witness one and resemblance of 5 the photos, did you uncover any other 6 evidence that Russell Montgomery killed 7 Tomika Means? 8 I don't believe so. Α. Did you come to any conclusions 9 10 with respect to your reinvestigation of 11 Tomika Means murder? 12 MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can 13 answer. 14 Yeah, I concluded that it was 15 more likely that Russell Montgomery killed 16 Tomika Means than Cory Epps. 17 Did you place that opinion into Ο. 18 some sort of official document or report? 19 Well, at the time that we were 20 doing the investigation, I was working with 2.1 other members of the DA staff; and I 22 communicated what we did to them. 23 recall doing any -- making any notes or 2.4 doing any reports, but I'm sure that there 25 are reports in the file at the DA's office

1	Riga 73
2	that reflect that.
3	Q. Okay.
4	And you're aware of the fact that
5	the DA ultimately decided to have the
6	indictment against Mr. Epps dismissed and
7	his release from prison?
8	A. Yes, I am.
9	Q. Did you know that was going to
10	happen before it became public knowledge?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Besides what we've discussed
13	today, do you know anything else that would
14	lead to that determination to have Mr. Epps
15	released?
16	MS. HUGGINS: Form. You can
17	answer.
18	A. I'm sorry. Would you repeat the
19	question, please?
20	Q. Besides what we've already
21	discussed today, was there anything else
22	that went into to your knowledge the
23	district attorney's decision to have
24	Mr. Epps released?
25	A. I can't think of anything else.

1	Riga 74
2	Q. Was one of the civilians that you
3	spoke with Glenn Garber?
4	A. I don't recall.
5	Q. Do you remember a relatively
6	short guy who's an attorney?
7	A. Yes, okay. I thought you were
8	talking about witnesses to the case.
9	Q. Okay, no. I'm just wondering if
10	you spoke with Glenn Garber during the
11	reinvestigation?
12	A. Yes.
13	Q. Did he provide information that
14	you found useful to the reinvestigation?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. What information was that?
17	A. Well, it was regarding witness
18	one; and he provided access to witness one.
19	Q. When did you first become aware
20	of this lawsuit?
21	A. I would say a couple of years
22	ago.
23	Q. Were you personally served with a
24	copy?
25	A. Yes.

1	Riga 75
2	Q. Are you still in contact
3	withdrawn.
4	MS. HUGGINS: As to that last
5	question, did you personally receive a
6	copy aside from communications with
7	myself?
8	THE WITNESS: No.
9	MS. HUGGINS: Okay.
10	
	Q. It would be correct to say that
11	you don't remember the date that occurred?
12	A. Pardon me?
13	Q. Would it be correct to say that
14	you don't remember the day that you saw it?
15	A. That's correct.
16	Q. Now, do you recognize the name
17	Detective John Bohan?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q. When was the last time you spoke
20	with Detective Bohan?
21	A. It's been many years since I've
22	spoken to him.
23	Q. Prior to 2019?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. Do you remember Detective

1	Riga 76
2	Reginald Minor?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. When was the last time you spoke
5	with Detective Minor?
6	A. It's probably been a couple of
7	years since I've spoken with him.
8	Q. Before 2019?
9	A. I would say so, yes.
10	Q. Do you remember Detective Mark
11	Stambach?
12	A. Yes, sir.
13	Q. When was the last time you spoke
14	with Detective Stambach?
15	A. Probably a month or so ago.
16	Q. Did your discussions have
17	anything to do with this particular case?
18	A. No. Only the fact that we were
19	both scheduled to give depositions.
20	Q. Did you discuss the substance of
21	your testimony?
22	A. No.
23	Q. Prior to your recent conversation
24	with Detective Stambach, have you had any
25	other conversations with him since January

1	Riga 77
2	of 2019?
3	A. Yes. Detective Stambach and I
4	are friends, and we converse regularly.
5	Q. Have you ever discussed this
6	lawsuit?
7	A. Nothing other than the fact that
8	we were both scheduled to give depositions.
9	Q. Okay.
10	Did you ever discuss the Cory
11	Epps conviction or the Tomika Means
12	homicide with him prior to January 1st,
13	2019?
14	MS. HUGGINS: Could you orient it
15	to the date? When are you referring
16	to?
17	Q. Well, at any time between the
18	conviction of Cory Epps and the date he was
19	released, did you have a conversation with
20	Detective Stambach regarding Cory Epps or
21	the Tomika Means' homicide?
22	A. I don't recall specifically.
23	Q. Just to be clear, you never
24	interviewed any of the original detectives
25	during the reinvestigation?

1	Riga 78
2	A. I don't recall whether we did or
3	not.
4	Q. Is it possible that somebody at
5	the district attorney's office interviewed
6	them?
7	A. It's possible.
8	Q. Do you recognize the name
9	Detective James Giardina?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. When was the last time you spoke
12	to Detective Giardina?
13	A. The last time I spoke to him was
14	last summer.
15	Q. What did you guys discuss?
16	A. Just he was with a group of
17	friends, and we discussed we didn't
18	discuss anything about the Cory Epps case.
19	Q. Prior to seeing Detective
20	Giardina last summer, had you seen him
21	prior to that?
22	A. Not in a long time.
23	Q. Now, we established that you
24	worked with Detective Anthony Constantino,
25	right?

1	Riga 79
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. Did you ever discuss the Tomika
4	Means investigation in the 1990s with
5	Detective Constantino?
6	A. I don't recall.
7	Q. Did you ever discuss the 1990s
8	investigation to the Paul Pope murder with
9	Detective Constantino during the
10	reinvestigation?
11	A. During the reinvestigation?
12	Q. Yes.
13	A. Yes.
14	Q. Okay.
15	A. And were you referring to the
16	reinvestigation when you asked me about
17	Constantino the first time?
18	Q. I was. So why don't I rephrase
19	this.
20	A. Please do.
21	Q. Detective Constantino worked on
22	the reinvestigation, right?
23	A. The exoneration investigation,
24	right, or both investigations.
25	Q. Right.

1	Riga 80
2	A. Yeah.
3	Q. In fact, I believe he shows up at
4	least briefly possibly in all three, the
5	original investigations and the
6	exoneration; but taking that aside, during
7	the reinvestigation, did you discuss the
8	initial investigation of the Paul Pope
9	murder with Detective Constantino?
10	A. I don't recall specifically, but
11	I'm sure I did.
12	Q. Okay.
13	During the reinvestigation, did
14	you discuss the original investigation into
15	the Tomika Means murder with Detective
16	Constantino?
17	A. I'll answer it the same way. I
18	don't recall the specific conversation, but
19	I'm sure we must have.
20	Q. Do you remember him telling you
21	anything informative about what happened in
22	those initial investigations?
23	A. No.
24	MS. HUGGINS: Objection. You can
25	answer.

1		Riga	81
2	Α.	No.	
3	Q.	Do you recognize the name	
4	Detective	Robert Chella?	
5	Α.	Yes.	
6	Q.	When was the last time you s	poke
7	with Detec	ctive Chella?	
8	Α.	It's probably been a year or	so.
9	Q.	Did you discuss this lawsuit	?
10	Α.	No.	
11	Q.	Well, do you recognize the n	ame
12	Detective	Raniero Massechia?	
13	Α.	Yes.	
14	Q.	That's R-A-N-I-E-R-O, space,	
15	M-A-S-S-E-	-C-H-I-A?	
16	Α.	Yes, I do.	
17	Q.	When was the last time you s	poke
18	with Detec	ctive Massechia?	
19	Α.	It's been years since I've s	poken
20	with him.		
21	Q.	Do you remember Detective	
22	Massechia	telling you that he got into	а
23	fistfight	with Cory Epps?	
24	Α.	No.	
25	Q.	Do you recognize the name	

1	Riga 82
	11290
2	Detective Charles Aronica?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. When was the last time you spoke
5	with Detective Aronica?
6	A. I couldn't tell you the last
7	time. It's been years and years since I've
8	spoken with him.
9	Q. Understood.
10	MR. RICKNER: I would like to
11	take five just to go over my notes and
12	make sure I've hit everything if that's
13	all right.
14	MS. HUGGINS: That's fine.
15	MR. RICKNER: Are you going to
16	have any questions?
17	MS. HUGGINS: I have one
18	question. I can ask it now.
19	MR. RICKNER: Go for it.
20	EXAMINATION
21	BY MS. HUGGINS:
22	Q. Chief, at the time of the Tomika
23	Means' murder investigation, did the
24	homicide assistant district attorneys have
25	access to the homicide investigation files

1	Riga 83
2	in your squad?
3	A. Yes.
4	MS. HUGGINS: That's all.
5	MR. RICKNER: Okay. I'll be back
6	in five minutes.
7	(Whereupon, a short recess was
8	taken.)
9	RE-EXAMINATION
10	BY MR. RICKNER:
11	Q. Chief Riga, it's fair to say that
12	you've been testifying off and on for about
13	two hours?
14	A. That's fair to say.
15	Q. Looking back, do you have
16	anything that you would like to correct or
17	change about your testimony?
18	A. No, sir.
19	Q. Is there anything relevant to
20	this case that we haven't discussed?
21	A. I don't believe so.
22	MR. RICKNER: Well, then I'm
23	going to say thank you very much and
24	close out the record.
25	(Time noted: 2:10 p.m.)

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1	Riga		85
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8			
9		JOSEPH RIGA	
10			
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12			
13	Subscribed and sworn to		
14	before me this day		
15	of 2021		
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1	86
2	CERTIFICATE
3	STATE OF NEW YORK)
4) ss.
5	COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)
6	
7	I, Nicole Veltri, RPR, CRR, and Notary
8	Public within and for the State of New York,
9	do hereby certify:
10	That JOSEPH RIGA, the witness whose
11	deposition is hereinbefore set forth, was
12	duly sworn by me and that such deposition is
13	a true record of the testimony given by such
14	witness.
15	I further certify that I am not
16	related to any of the parties to this action
17	by blood or marriage and that I am in no way
18	interested in the outcome of this matter.
19	
20	
21	
22	NICOLE VELTRI, RPR, CRR
23	
24	
25	

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